

# **SANTA ROSA AND SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT**

## **ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**June 5, 2004**

**United States Department of Agriculture**

**United States Department of  
the Interior**

**MEETING LOCATION:** PALM DESERT CITY HALL  
73-510 Fred Waring  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

**DATE AND TIME:** Saturday, June 5, 2004  
9:09 a.m. to 2:18 p.m.

### **LIST OF THOSE PRESENT:**

#### **MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC):**

BUFORD CRITES, Councilmember and current Mayor, City of Palm Desert  
BARBARA GONZALES LYONS, Vice Chair, Tribal Council, Agua Caliente Band of  
Cahuilla Indians  
MARY ROCHE, Mayor, Indian Wells  
RUTH WATLING, Chair Pinyon Community Council  
KATHIE BRENNAN, Building Industry  
ROBERT BROCKMAN, Director of Community Development, City of Rancho Mirage  
FRANK BOGERT, Former Mayor City of Palm Springs  
BARY FREET, Palm Springs Fire Chief, resident of Cathedral City  
BILL HAVERT, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Mountain Conservancy  
BOB LYMAN, Regional Office Manager, County of Riverside  
JEFFREY MORGAN, Sierra Club, Local Conservation Organization  
ALLAN MUTH, expertise in natural science and research, University of California,  
Riverside, Philip L. Boyd Deep Canyon Research Center  
ROB PARKINS, General Manager, Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, Winter Park Authority  
GARY WATTS, District Superintendent, California Department of Parks and  
Recreation

#### **STAFF AND PRESENTERS:**

DANELLA GEORGE, Designated Federal Official and Santa Rosa and San  
Jacinto Mountains National Monument Manager  
MELISSA DREW, BLM Community Planner, National Monument  
JIM FOOTE, BLM Recreational Planner  
EDDY KONNO, California Department of Fish & Game  
LAURIE ROSENTHAL, USDA Forest Service, District  
Ranger, San Jacinto Ranger District  
FRANK MOWRY, BLM Writer-Editor, National Monument  
MARK De FRANCES, USDA Forest Service, Partnerships Coordinator  
BILL GEVEDON, Fire Chief, San Jacinto Ranger District  
TOM BURGIN, Lower Southern Desert Resource Conservation District  
SAM COBB, USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service  
DAVID SMITH, California State Soil Scientist, Natural Research Conservation service



## **AGENDA**

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

### **REVIEW OF LAST MEET MINUTES**

### **MONUMENT MANAGER UPDATE**

**Danella George**

**Melissa Drew**

**Jim Foote**

### **AGENCY UPDATES**

#### **U.S. FOREST SERVICE**

**Laurie Rosenthal**

**Mark De Frances**

**Bill Gevedon**

#### **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**Danella George**

### **NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE, SOIL RESOURCE INVENTORY PROPOSAL FOR NATIONAL MONUMENT**

**David Smith**

### **LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL FOR NOXIOUS, INVASIVE AND NON- NATIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE NATIONAL MONUMENT**

**Tom Burgin**

**Sam Cobb**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

## **AGENDA SUMMARY**

### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTION-BUFORD CRITES**

Welcome and introduction of BLM and USFS staff present.

### **REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES/OTHER BUSINESS**

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved.

### **HOUSEKEEPING, UPDATE FROM NATIONAL MONUMENT MANAGER, AND BLM (AGENCY UPDATE)-DANELLA GEORGE**

Meeting focused on landscape actions as proposed in the National Monument Management Plan. Several guests were invited to speak to the MAC, State Soil Scientist, David Smith; Tom Burgin and Sam Cobb, representing the Southern Low Desert Resource Conservation District and Natural Resource Conservation Service will speak on treating tamarisk on a landscape basis. Ms. Melissa Drew was on hand to present an update on May 2004, Business Plan Workshop and to make a proposal to the MAC for assistance in completing the National Monument Business Plan. Mr. Jim Foote was present to provide briefing on the status on Dunn Road, and make a proposal for MAC members to assist with signage issues.

### **AGENCY UPDATE-LAURIE ROSENTHAL, USFS**

Laurie Rosenthal, District Ranger, provided an update to the MAC. Additionally there was a discussion of the various projects dealing with removal of hazardous trees, fuel reduction, thinning projects, prescribed burns and community protection. It was also



noted construction changes had been completed at the district office on Highway 243. More details are available through the full MAC meeting notes on-line.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

There were several presentations provided to member of the council, below is a summary of each:

**Ms. Melissa Drew, BLM Community Planner:** Provided a brief review of the May Business Plan Workshop. At present the plan was in the first stages, Worksheet 1 was completed; projects in accordance with National Monument Management Plan had been identified. Next step is to seek input from the community and support from the MAC. IN all, there are six individual worksheet, which need to be completed in order to lay the business plan foundation. Four areas have been identified: Community Interface, Cultural Heritage, Natural Resources, and Recreation. MAC volunteers are requested to help complete the worksheets in each of the four areas.

MAC members agreed to the plan in theory and divided up to assist with the completion of the other worksheets. Special Note: Due to Melissa Drew's moving and leaving BLM, POC for the Business Plan became Frank Mowry, Writer-editor for the National Monument.

The next topic of discussion was Monument Advisory Committee nominations. Calls for nominations went out May 14, 2004, with closing date of June 28, 2004. Positions are for Agua Caliente, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Winter Park Authority and Pinyon Community Council. [Please note: The position cited are in error, and a Federal Registry Notice of Correction was issued, extending the closing date to August 9, 2004. Actual positions were for Pinyon Community Council, Agua Caliente, Rancho Mirage, Natural Science, and Palm Desert.] There was some discussion about completion of applications and when individual terms were due to expire, end result – Ms Drew agreed to review and ensure information was correct and advise members appropriately.

**Mr. Jim Foote, BLM Recreation Planner:** Took five minutes to speak about Dunn Road, expressly emergency vehicle access to the road. Mr. Foote and the fire crew from Pinyon Pines Community took a fire engine through the full length of the Dunn Road. The truck successfully negotiated the entire road, but there are two areas in need of some minor repairs to ensure full and safe access. Mr. Foote also advised all keys to the road were being reissued, as some have been misplaced and/or lost over time. Two keys were re-issued to Pinyon Pines unit to ensure road access. BLM will be preparing a NEPA document.

Next issue signage, Mr. Foote explained the need for sign consistency and explained about the Sign Work group plans. Asked for volunteers to move ahead in the development of some basic standards for signs to be used throughout the National Monument and by various jurisdictions in connection with National Monument signage. MAC members were requested to volunteer for this work group, next step is planning and scheduling meetings.

**Ms. Laurie Rosenthal, USDA Forest Service:** Opened by advising about revisions to the Forest Plan; next topic was dead trees. Advised of a couple of fuels reductions projects being considered, including bringing in roughly 30 detailers to work the project. Project would include prescribed burns, as well as removal of brush and dead



trees. Advised of how USFS was looking to establish collaborative relationships in dealing with these problems. Additionally USFS is working plans for tamrisk removal and problems with abandoned pets (feral dogs, etc.)

**Mr. Mark De Frances, USDA Forest Service:** New to the area, he just recently moved his family to Palm Desert from Arizona. Mr. De Frances will be in charge of partnership coordination. He will be working closely with the communities on development of Forest Service plans for major fuels reduction projects. He provided an overview on the plan currently being designed for the Pinyon Pines Community.

**Ms. Bill Gevedon, USDA Forest Service, Fire Chief San Jacinto District:** Discussed changes to Forest Plan and plan to develop outreach materials (e.g. handouts, maps, etc.) Mr. Gevedon also spoke to visitor usage within the Forest Service and various levels of fire hazard. Additionally discussed some basic forest maintenance needs and agreements with other agencies, to meet these needs, as well as communications needs during emergency events (fires).

**Mr. Dave Smith, California State Soil Scientist, Natural Resources Conservation Service:** Explained how NRCS is a sister agency to Forest Service in USDA. Their mission is to provide the private landowners with technical expertise across the nation. The agency provides federal leadership for national cooperative soil survey programs. Offered an Adobe PowerPoint presentation showing a number of maps slides, which reflected the areas of existing soil surveys and needs to begin new surveys, review older surveys, and/or complete previously begun surveys. His presentation offered views of the National Monument and provided some basic information on what is still needed in order to complete the required soil survey. Mr. Smith also explained his funding constraints. The MAC approved a motion in support of conducting a Soil Survey within the National Monument.

**Messrs. Tom Burgin, Low Southern Desert Conservation District and Sam Cobb, National Resources Conservation System:** Most of the presentation was handled by Mr. Burgin, he explained who and what their role was in the big picture of weed removal. He provide basic information on himself and Mr. Cobb, explained how they go about seeking funding and providing necessary information for on his role and Mr. Cobb's role within the RCand D. Provided examples of the work they have done and listed some of the contact they have established through out the areas they have been working in. Finally, in broad terms Mr. Burgin provided an outline of the types of work they would/could do for the National Monument, and awaited approval to proceed from the MAC. A motion was approved by the MAC for the National Monument and RC and D to go forward with the project program.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Joe Ingram from Spring Crest, spoke about issues not being addressed by the MAC; Problem 1, no true hydro geological study has been done in this area. Problem 2, construction in relation to water issues in the areas surrounding Spring Crest. The building boom around Pinyon is having an impact upon the water, due to the number 0of wells being drilled, downstream from where homes are being built. He assed references to the current drought, and how this was increasing the problem with more sewage,



higher nitrate levels all of which is increasing the risk to native species. He also believe there are other issues which need to be addressed, and asked the MAC to seriously look into a study of the soil, of the bedrock of what we have. Questions if there is such a thing as paleo water? Where the water comes from, if the water is left over from the Pliocene era, and if it might not be water from the ancient Sea of Cortez?

### **MAC MEMBER COMMENTS**

Finally, Ms. George advised the MAC of the upcoming National Monument celebrations, October 23, 2004, at the National Monument Visitor's Center, and that the "Palm Springs Life" video production on the National Monument was moving at a rapid pace toward completion. A couple of members have seen some segments of the film are very impressed by the quality and views shown. Mr. Crites suggested the in the future the area will become more known for the National Monument then for the Valley. Committee was also advised Riverside County was seeking a farm loan/grant to clean up the area referred to as the orchard on the upper end of Dunn Road.

### **SUMMARIZE MEETING AND NEXT MEETING NEEDS FROM THE COMMITTEE-DFO AND CHAIR**

Meeting was summarized, and needs discussed for the next MAC meeting. Chairman Crites, and Mr. Barry Freet, requested an update be provided at the next meeting on the cooperative working relationship between the Forest Service and BLM.

### **MEETING ADJOURNED-BUFORD CRITES, CHAIR**

Meeting adjourned after scheduling next meeting for Saturday, October 2, 2004.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** This summary is provided as a convenience; as such, it is only a reflection of the events, conversations, and discussions, taking place during the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Advisory Committee Meeting. For a full and complete transcript of this meeting, please go to the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Home Page at [w] [http://www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/santarosa/minutes\\_2004.html](http://www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/santarosa/minutes_2004.html).